

Fall 2007

Marginalia no. 23

Merrill-Cazier Library
Utah State University

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marginalia

friends of merrill-cazier library • fall 2007

AUTUMN: A SEASON OF CHANGE

As we begin a new fall semester, the Merrill-Cazier Library has moved ahead on a number of projects and has commenced work on new ones. The most productive group was the screening committee for the new Dean of Libraries. After surveying our peers and other land-grant institutions, President Albrecht and Provost Coward decided to change the position title from Vice-Provost for Libraries to Dean of Libraries, a move that will better align us with our peer institutions. The search has been a very active process. The University is capitalizing on the success it had with the Dean of Science search last year. Larry Smith, Vice-Provost, has been serving as screening manager. The Library staff nominated over 120 candidates, and Vice Provost Smith personally contacted a majority of them. His message was a very positive story about the University, the Library and Cache Valley. The end result was a pool of 24 candidates. The Provost and screening committee conducted airport interviews with the top 10 candidates in late-September. The three finalists will be brought to campus for interviews throughout October. The University administration is hoping to make a decision by the end of the year. This has been a fascinating process and I feel confident that the outcome will be positive.

On another note, the Library recently received several grants this summer for a variety of projects. There have been two projects funded by the Eccles Foundation: the Latino Voices Project (an oral history of Cache Valley's Hispanic community) received \$10,000, and our Digital Program received \$25,000 for the purchase of a high-end large format digital camera and accessories. The new camera will allow us to create full-color, digital images of the Library's rare 17th, 18th, and 19th century scientific works. These images will be accessible through the Library's website. Special Collections and Archives received a \$100,000 grant from the Library Services and Technology Act administered by the State Library of Utah. The project will create a single searchable database of finding aids for archival materials within six Utah research institutions. This will provide universal access to some of the state's most unique materials.

— John Elsweiler, Interim Vice Provost



IN THE SPIRIT OF HISTORY: THE CAZIER ENDOWMENT

This spring the first book was purchased with funds provided by the Stanford O. and Shirley A. Cazier Library Endowment. The book, *Nez Perce Joseph: an account of his ancestors, his lands, his confederates, his enemies, his murders, his war, his pursuit and capture* by US Army Brigadier General O.O. Howard, recounts the general's experiences in the Nez Perce Indian campaign of 1877. This western classic was added to the significant collection of important western Americana held in the Special Collections and Archives Division. The volume provides an excellent perspective of the dominant cultures' thinking toward Native Americans in the late 19th century west. [Library Director Linda Wolcott and former USU President Stanford O. Cazier, at right.]

The Cazier Endowment funds will be used to purchase a wide variety of monographs paralleling Cazier's interests as an intellectual historian. Those wanting to contribute to the Cazier Endowment may do so by contacting the Merrill-Cazier Library Administrative Office at 435-797-2631.



FIVE YEAR PLAN PROVIDES FOR ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

Responding to the concerns of faculty members regarding the erosion of vital library resources, President Albrecht and Provost Coward have developed a five year funding plan for the Merrill-Cazier Library. This plan enables us to acquire the valuable ScienceDirect Freedom Collection suite of electronic journals and prevents further cancellation of journal subscriptions for the next five years. The Freedom Collection provides USU students and faculty with access to more than 2,000 Elsevier electronic journals with coverage from the year 2000 to the present. Of these, 1,700 are titles that were previously unavailable to library users.

The library is grateful to Roger Coulombe, Tim Gilbertson, Lance Seefeldt, and John Stark. These four faculty members were instrumental in bringing awareness to this issue and ultimately securing funding for these critical electronic resources. They are our 2007 Faculty Library Award recipients, and were honored during a ceremony in October.

— Kim Winger, Library Public Relations

INSTRUCTION PROGRAM: A RECORD BREAKING YEAR

The Association of College and Research Libraries defines information literacy as “the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information.” These skills are vital at a time when information is more plentiful and easily accessible. In today’s environment, university students need to know how to find and apply high-quality information in order to succeed in college and beyond.

The Merrill-Cazier Library’s Instruction Program is playing a critical role in helping students succeed in this world of information abundance. By teaching information literacy skills the program is promoting academic success and lifelong learning.

Librarians now use problem-based learning approaches. Working in groups, students are given a problem or issue to explore and librarians help them develop focused research questions, identify the best library resources to search for answers, and evaluate what they find in terms of quality and relevance. Students then apply what they discovered for proposed solutions to the assigned problem.

This curriculum transformation has led to a major expansion in library instruction sessions and contact hours with students. In 2003-2004, librarians taught 563 classes, representing 11,595 contact hours. In 2005-2006, these numbers increased to 853 sessions and 17,193 contact hours. Currently, librarians are on pace for a record-breaking year. By the end of February 2007, librarians had already taught 976 library sessions. These numbers represent a greater level of collaboration with faculty in which librarians and instructors co-teach a more integrated curriculum.

But most importantly, the new approach works. Assessments show that more integrated library sessions and problem-based learning have contributed to student learning in the areas of critical thinking and problem-solving and communication, vital skills for the 21st century college graduate.

— Wendy Holliday, Coordinator of Library Instruction



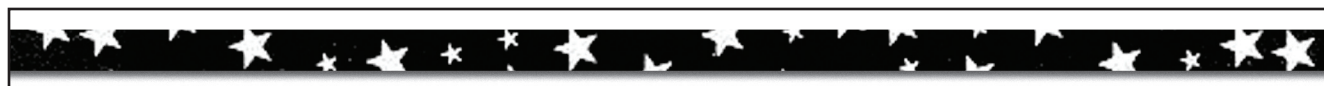
RELIGIOUS STUDIES: LIBRARY COLLECTIONS GROW WITH PROGRAM



The Religious Studies Program at Utah State University is off to an impressive start. Charitable donations are supporting the Charles Redd Chair in Religious Studies and the Leonard J. Arrington Chair in Mormon History and Culture. Although Merrill-Cazier Library has quite impressive holdings in Utah and Mormon history, religious studies has never been a particular focus of the collection. The effort to improve and diversify the collections in religion will get a great boost from the O.C. Tanner Charitable Trust which has pledged to develop a \$600,000 endowment to fund library acquisitions in this area. The endowment will grow incrementally over three years and, when complete, should generate nearly \$30,000 annually for the purchase of library materials.

The additional support of \$5,000 from the Friends of the Library will help to jump start the collecting process before the Tanner fund is fully developed. The Friends’ funds are being used to target weaker areas of the collection such as Buddhism, Islam or Judaism. Library staff are identifying particular series from academic publishers such as Oxford and Cambridge University Presses and adding any volumes not held by the Library. The Friends’ support will make it possible to expand the library at USU from minimal support for religious studies to a collection that fully sustains the research and teaching needs of the program.

— Steven R. Harris, Collection Development Librarian





2007 CLASS GIFT BENEFITS LIBRARY

The USU Senior Class of 2007 has started an inspiring, and charitable, tradition. For the 2007 class gift, students decided to raise funds from fellow classmates to dedicate a Merrill-Cazier Library study room to their senior class. The fundraising was extremely successful — nearly \$5000 was raised for the library — and the graduating seniors were thrilled to be able to leave a legacy and have their names permanently placed in Study Room 141 of the library. Due to the success of the 2007 class gift, the graduating class of 2008 is following suit. The library looks forward to dedicating another room to the Class of 2008.

— Kim Winger, Library Public Relations

THAT OLD BLACK(WELL) MAGIC ...AND OTHER METHODS IN CONJURING A LIBRARY COLLECTION

Each year the Merrill-Cazier Library adds approximately 12,000 books to its collections. Where do these books come from? How are they acquired? There are three main methods for acquiring books: 1) gifts or donations from contributors, 2) firm orders, and 3) approval books.

The most common donations to the library are gifts in kind: actual materials donated to the library, usually from faculty or other people who have a close connection with USU. Some of these gifts duplicate what is already in the collection. In those cases we often

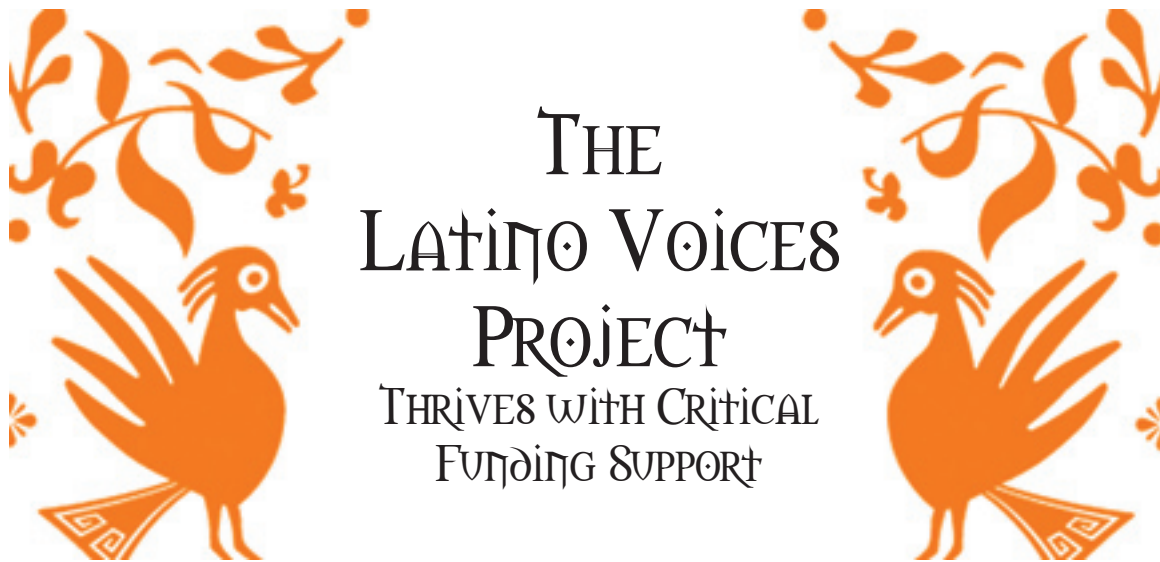
sell the material in our ongoing book sale. Some benefactors contribute funds to the library that can be used to purchase materials on specific subjects.

Firm orders are those materials that the library staff has ordered directly from a publisher or book dealer. Sometimes materials are requested by one of the 24 subject librarians who are responsible for developing collections within their areas. Other requests are submitted by students, faculty or staff. Requests for new books can be sent directly to the appropriate subject librarian or submitted through an online form.

Approval books are acquired through an agreement with Blackwell Book Services, our primary book vendor. Our approval plan with Blackwell automatically provides books according to characteristics we have chosen. Each week new approval books arrive, and we are free to examine them and keep them or return them to Blackwell with no penalty.

— Steven Harris, Collection Development Librarian





With more than 45 interviews conducted to date, Utah State University's Latino Voices Project is well over its goal to collect 40 interviews from Cache Valley Latino citizens. With recent funding from the Marriner S. Eccles Foundation and the Utah State Historical Records Advisory Board (USHRAB), the project will now move into the next phases – transcription, translation and digitization of the oral interviews.

The Latino Voices Project is part of Northern Utah Speaks, an umbrella collection of oral histories with the aim to capture the voices from all northern Utah communities. The collection is coordinated by and housed in Special Collections and Archives at USU's Merrill-Cazier Library.

Funding from the Marriner S. Eccles Foundation has proven critical to fulfilling the goals of the Latino Voices Project, said Randy Williams, project director and folklore curator for Special Collections and Archives. The foundation's financial contributions will enable the library to have the oral histories transcribed and have portions of the collection translated into English.

The recent USHRAB donation also funds the transcription of the oral interviews which will be digitized and stored in Special Collections and Archives and in the online Digital Library at the Merrill-Cazier Library. In addition to benefiting the Latino Voices Project, another award from USHRAB to Utah State University's Special Collections & Archives is for the purchase of audio digitization tools which will allow improved preservation of thousands of audio recordings dating from the 1930s to the present within the Northern Utah Speaks oral history collection. These include oral histories and field recordings related to northern Utah, the Intermountain West and the history of Utah State University. The funding from USHRAB will establish a digital transfer station for converting these valuable audio records to digital format to preserve the recordings and facilitate public access.

"We are extremely grateful to the Marriner S. Eccles Foundation, USHRAB and all of our donors for their financial support, but more importantly, for seeing the value of the Latino Voices Project," Williams said. "Oral histories represent a critical component of a region's history, and it has been exciting to capture the stories of our Latino community members in our Northern Utah Speaks oral history collection. This project absolutely would not be moving along so quickly and successfully without the contributions of these great organizations."

This project has also received funding from the Utah Humanities Council, Utah State Division of History and the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies.

For information on the Latino Voices Project, contact Randy Williams at (435) 797-3493.



It's Official: USU Students Love Their Library

At the close of Spring Semester 2007, librarians at USU asked our patrons to “tell us what you think.” The Merrill-Cazier Library participated in the LibQUAL+® survey, an online assessment tool of the Association of College and Research Libraries. This survey assessed the quality of library services at USU. A total of 2668 people took the survey including undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff.

Though we are still working our way through all the data, the preliminary results show that patrons are pleased with the library as a place and pleased with its services. Our beautiful new building received high marks from students and faculty alike. Likewise, respondents are highly satisfied with the staff, agreeing that library workers are “consistently courteous.” According to the survey, library patrons desire more online access to resources such as electronic journals and article databases.

Once we're done crunching the numbers, we'll have more hard facts and figures from the LibQUAL+® survey to report in the Spring Edition of *Marginalia*. In the meantime, here's a sampling of the comments we've received from survey respondents about the Merrill-Cazier Library:

“I love the services that the library is giving us as students. I feel that I am well respected in my questions, and help has always just been around the corner. Great job, and keep up the fabulous work!”

Undergraduate Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences 23 - 30 Male

“Thank-you for supplying me with such a great environment to expand my horizons & potential. Keep up the great work. “

Undergraduate Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences 23 - 30 Male

“I am always impressed with the quality of service and the genuine commitment of the staff to help me with my searches. I also think you're a creative, fun loving group.”

Staff Education and Human Services 46 - 65 Female

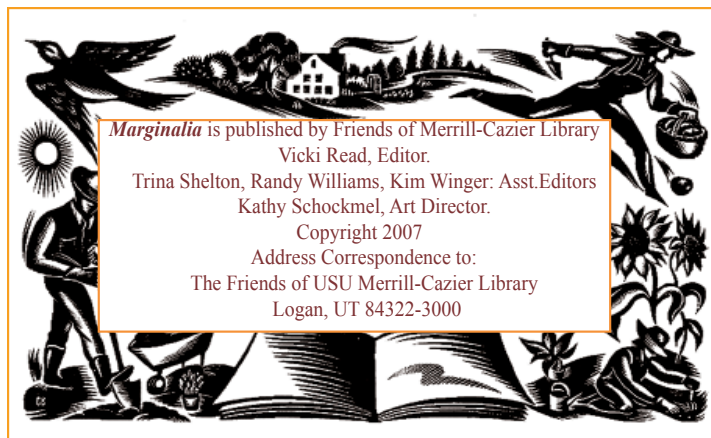
“The library is one of the few places I can come and really get some good time in. It provides a calm environment and the resources I need to do my tasks.”

Undergraduate Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences 18 - 22 Female

“It's great! I love being at the library. I feel a great sense of unity among the students there.”

Undergraduate Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences 18 - 22 Female

— Erin Dini Davis and Pamela Martin, Reference Librarians





ARRINGTON LECTURER

BERT WILSON

CHALLENGES COMMON FOLKLORE MISCONCEPTION

The thirteenth annual Arrington History Lecture, featuring folklorist and BYU Professor Emeritus, Dr. William "Bert" Wilson, was held on September 27. Wilson is former director of the Folklore Program at Utah State University, where he developed the annual Fife Folklore Conference. He began the evenings lecture by presenting a question to the audience. "What's true in Mormon folklore?" Following his response, that "the answer, of course, is all of it," Wilson demonstrated that the materials of Mormon folklore — from the quilts Mormons make to the rituals they participate in and the stories they tell of remarkable spiritual events — are, no matter what their origins, true. The Library-sponsored event was held at the Logan LDS Tabernacle.

Kim Winger, Library Public Relations

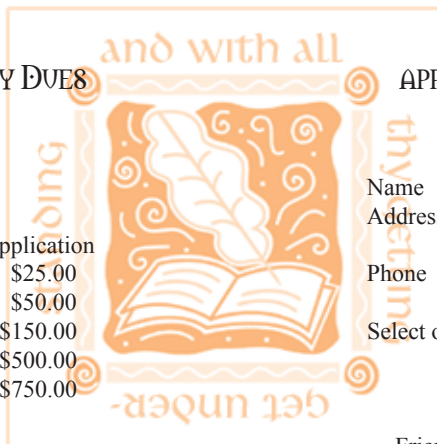
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ROY WEBB

Multimedia Archivist , Marriott Library
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"I HAD ARRIVED AT PERFECTION:
THE LOST CANYONS OF THE
GREEN RIVER"

Merrill-Cazier Library Room 101



